

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 01735 311803Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05
SCS-03 SCA-01 PER-01 DHA-02 MCT-01 /071 W
-----312143Z 125842 /63

R 311750Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0099
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 01735

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK
SUBJECT: PROVOS BLITZ LONDON'S WEST END

REF: LONDON 1674

1. THE PROVISIONAL IRA (PIRA) RETURNED TO LONDON
JANUARY 29 WITH A L4-BOMB (13 OF WHICH EXPLODED) BLITZ
OF OXFORD STREET AND ENVIRONS (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO
THE PRESS, THE BULK OF THE BOMBS WERE SMALL AND OF TWO
TYPES: 2 TO 5 POUND HIGH EXPLOSIVE DEVICES OR "CASSETTE
TYPE" INCENDIARIES. ONE UNEXPLODED DEVICE WAS FOUND IN
SELFRIDGES'S DEPARTMENT STORE, WHERE A SECOND EXPLOSIVE
BOMB ALSO WENT OFF.

2. A MAN PURPORTING TO REPRESENT THE PIRA CALLED A
MANCHESTER NEWSPAPER LATER IN THE DAY, CLAIMING THAT THE
BOMBS WERE THE WORK OF THE PIRA AND INDICATING THAT THE
BOMBING WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL HMG WITHDRAWS ITS TROOPS
FROM NORTHERN IRELAND.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 01735 311803Z

3. COMMENT. IT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT THE PIRA HAS
INFILTRATED A NEW TERRORIST TEAM INTO BRITAIN. MOST
OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE TIMING OF THIS RENEWED BOMBING
OFFENSIVE WAS DESIGNED TO MARK THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE 1972 "BLOODY SUNDAY" DISORDERS IN LONDONDERRY AND WAS
ALSO RELATED TO THE CURRENT TRIAL OF THE BALCOMBE STREET
BOMBERS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THESE BOMBINGS MARK A

NEW PIRA STRATEGY FOR BOMBING CAMPAIGNS IN BRITAIN
(PREVIOUS CAMPAIGNS HAVE TENDED TO FOCUS ON CHOSEN
TARGETS. E.G. "ESTABLISHMENT" RESTAURANTS OR PUBS USED
BY OFF-DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL), OR WHETHER IT WAS A ONE
TIME AFFAIR. THE SIMILARITY OF THIS PATTERN TO RECENT
BOMBINGS IN NI -- SMALLER BOMBS SET TO EXPLODE AFTER
WORKING HOURS, REDUCING THE LIKELIHOOD OF DETECTION OR OF
KILLING AND INJURING OF BY-STANDERS AND CONSERVING ON
EXPLOSIVES -- MAY BE CIRCUMSTANTIAL. THE PIRA HAS NOT
PREVIOUSLY SHOWN MUCH CONCERN FOR THE VICTIMS OF ITS
TERRORIST ACTIONS.

ARMSTRONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, BOMBING, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON01735
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770034-0557
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977013/aaaaacfd.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 87fe60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 1674
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3537172
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROVOS BLITZ LONDON\ S WEST END
TAGS: PINT, UK, PIRA, PROVISIONAL IRA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/87fe60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009